

MAX ROSE
11TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

1529 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3371

STATEN ISLAND OFFICE:
265 NEW DORP LANE, SECOND FLOOR
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10306
TELEPHONE: (718) 667-3313

BROOKLYN OFFICE:
8203 3RD AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11209
TELEPHONE: (718) 306-5500

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3211

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND
SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEES:
INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERTERRORISM,
CHAIRMAN
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE
AND RECOVERY
COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HEALTH
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

November 26, 2019

Mr. David P. Pekoske, Administrator
Transportation Security Administration
TSA Headquarters
East Tower, Floor 11, TSA-5
601 South Twelfth Street
Arlington, VA 20598

Dear Administrator Pekoske,

This week is one of the busiest travel periods of the year. We are writing to urge you to place pressure cookers on the TSA's list of prohibited items when flying, in order to increase safety, security, and efficiency in air travel. The safety of passengers is always our number one priority when it comes to air travel, and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has done an admirable job at keeping travelers secure during their journeys throughout the country. Efficient travel is also a priority. Travelers want to get to their destinations safely, securely and on time.


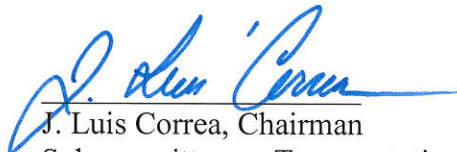

The trail of destruction left by pressure cookers is still fresh in our minds. These devices were used in the Boston Marathon bombing where two pressure cooker bombs killed three and wounded over 260. A pressure cooker was also used in the Chelsea neighborhood bombing in New York City (NYC) which injured over thirty people and caused property damage across a 650-foot crime scene. A dumpster was thrown 120 feet, and the blast shattered third-story windows as far as 400 feet away. In the most devastating attack, 209 people were killed and over 700 injured when seven pressure cooker bombs were detonated on trains in India. These small, portable devices are capable of inflicting massive damage with minimal effort.

The mere presence of a pressure cooker brought the NYC subway system to a virtual standstill in August of this year. Eight major subway lines experienced significant delays and affected thousands of commuters because an individual placed a pressure cooker on the floor inside a busy subway station then simply walked away. The station, a main travel hub, had to be evacuated until the New York Police Department's Bomb Squad could respond and clear the device. If the presence of one inert pressure cooker can bring the NYC subway system to its knees, imagine what a similar incident could do to LaGuardia or JFK airports during this busy holiday travel season.

Placing pressure cookers on the prohibited items list would increase security by not allowing them to be brought into airports and mistaken for an explosive device, which could easily create a panic situation. It would increase efficiency by not exposing people who place pressure cookers in their carry-on bags to extra security screening thus increasing lines and wait times for others.

Pressure cookers have become a dangerously simple way for terrorists to attack our citizens and cause massive disruptions in the way we live our lives. Allowing these devices in carry-on bags on planes invites panic at airports and exposes us to untold risk. Traveling during the holiday season is stressful enough without being confronted by an item we have come to identify as a possible instrument of death and destruction. Again, we commend the job TSA continues to do every day in ensuring safe, secure, and timely travel and we ask that you add pressure cookers to your list of prohibited carry-on items.

Sincerely,


Max Rose, Chairman
Subcommittee on Intelligence
& Counterterrorism
Committee on Homeland Security
J. Luis Correa, Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation
& Maritime Security
Committee on Homeland Security
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress
André Carson
Member of Congress
Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress